



December 12, 2018

The Honorable Jim Butler
Ohio House of Representatives
Vern Riffe State Government Center
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Representative Butler and Members of the House of Representatives:

As leaders of Ohio's largest statewide business organizations, we are writing to express our collective concern over the lack of a vote scheduled for Speaker of the Ohio House.

As you well know, the void in office of the Speaker is preventing the House from preparing for the next General Assembly and aligning its policy priorities with the Governor-elect, the other statewide office holders, and the newly-elected members of the House. Should this impasse continue, the House will be forced to spend the first month of the DeWine Administration dealing with internal administrative tasks instead of tending to the business of the citizens of Ohio, including policy matters important to economic investment, job creation and retention.

Governor-elect DeWine received the third most votes of any gubernatorial candidate in Ohio history. We owe it to him to have an Ohio House of Representatives fully prepared to address his agenda on day one of the new General Assembly. Accordingly, we implore members of the House Republican caucus to set aside differences and preferences and focus on the needs of our great state. Specifically, we urge you to immediately set the date for a Speaker vote, an act that traditionally is done two weeks after the November election.

Like you, we deeply care about the institution. Our economy depends on a functional House of Representatives working to solve current and future challenges. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your colleagues and wish you success in the selection of Speaker of the Ohio House.

Sincerely,

Roger R. Geiger
Vice President & Executive Director
National Federation of
Independent Business, Ohio

Adam Sharp
Executive Vice President
Ohio Farm Bureau

Eric L. Burkland
President
The Ohio Manufacturers'
Association

Patrick J. Tiberi
President & CEO
Ohio Business Roundtable

Gordon M. Gough
President & CEO
The Ohio Council of Retail
Merchants

Andrew E. Doehrel
President & CEO
Ohio Chamber of Commerce